

Draft

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE November 9, 2006 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic & Transportation Committee was held in the Buena Vista Library Meeting Room, 300 N. Buena Vista Street, on the above date. Michael Flad, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Flad, Chair
Sam Asheghian
Gary Bric
Lt. Ron Caruso
Donald Farquhar
Ralph Herman
Brian Malone
David Kriske
Michael Napolitano
Rene Salas
Joe Terranova, Vice Chair

Members Absent: Joseph Spaulding, Hank Jannace

Staff Present: Ken Johnson – Asst Public Works Director, Traffic Engineer
Rabie Rahmani – Principal Traffic Engineer, Public Works
Karen McMurray – Administrative Analyst I, Public Works
Terre Hirsch – License and Code Administrator, License and Code
Melissa Blau – Recording Secretary, Public Works

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2006 meeting with an abstention by Mr. Herman.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic & Transportation Committee)

A. Public

None.

B. Committee Members/Staff

None.

IV. REPORTS

A. Taxi Cab Report– Terre Hirsch

Mr. Hirsch reported that the committee's decision to grant 60 permits for G & S Transit was appealed. Mr. Hirsch also reported there have not been any taxicab complaints. The City changed the written test's format, resulting in many failures. Mr. Flad asked Mr. Jim Kipper, reporting for Tri-City Transportations Systems (City Cab, Yellow Cab and Checker Cab), if they are still implementing their CNG vehicles. Mr. Kipper responded they have 20 such vehicles in their fleet and some handicap accessible vehicles that use alternative fuel will be available. He added that they improved the process of their holding lots, resulting in fewer complaints. Mr. Hirsch added that staff

received only one complaint about disabled service. The complainant will go before the Advisory Committee for the Disabled. Mr. Hirsch will bring the results of that meeting to this committee for review.

B. Request from Checker Cab, Yellow Cab, and G & S Transit for airport surcharge – Ken Johnson

Mr. Hirsch reported that according to municipal code, in Chapter 23, taxicab rates may not go any higher than the maximum rates charged in the City of Los Angeles, but they may mirror them. The surcharges at LAX are divided between the airport and a non-profit organization called ATS. ATS consists of seven taxicab companies. The City Attorneys Office would need to create a code amendment to specify regulation on the use of revenue of a surcharge if the committee decides to charge one. Mr. Terranova inquired if staff received a surcharge breakdown from the taxicab companies who requested it. Mr. Kipper provided a copy of the breakdown to the Committee. Mr. Flad recommended that staff do more research and to approach the airport regarding revenue intentions.

A motion was made by Joe Terranova and seconded by Gary Bric to table this item until staff gathers information to make a study on the costs involved and of the benefits of having a surcharge, then bring it back in January. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Request of Daniel Wells to start PediCab operations in Downtown Burbank – Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson advised the committee comments from the City Attorneys Office are still pending. Item has been tabled for a future meeting.

D. Restricted parking on Elmwood and Cedar Avenues east of San Fernando Boulevard – Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported a new thirty two-unit residential town home complex is requesting the removal of the parking restrictions because they are having parking issues. Despite the two parking spaces per unit assigned, there are not enough places to park. Both sides of the street have apartment buildings that receive parking permits. Now the number of permits out numbers the amount of parking on the street. The restriction has been in place for a long time. After doing research, staff believes the reason for installation was the commercial businesses that are on the other side of San Fernando Boulevard. Since its installation, the needs of the businesses have changed, and now the parking permits do not serve any function. Because of the changing needs, staff would like to request the committee to allow them to remove the parking restriction. Mr. Johnson also recommended keeping the two hour parking restriction on San Fernando Boulevard to maintain turnover for the businesses. Mr. Herman suggested letting residents and businesses know about the request to give them time to respond. Mr. Johnson responded that staff would be happy to send a mailing out to apartment dwellers. Item has been tabled until January 2007.

E. Multi-way stop at Walnut Avenue and De Bell Drive – Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson advised the committee that the De Bell clubhouse does not have handicap access that meets ADA requirements. The crosswalk has too great a side slope because it's on a hill. Staff recommends modifications to the grade of the street to lessen the slope of the crosswalk. Staff recommends a three way stop at the intersection to improve handicap access, and access to the clubhouse.

A motion was made by Gary Bric and seconded by Mr. Herman to install a multi-way stop. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. No left turn sign at Handy Market on Magnolia Boulevard.

Mr. Johnson advised the committee that the drivers turning left into the driveway do not interfere with the vehicles turning left onto Buena Vista; therefore, staff feels that it is not necessary to install a No Left Turn Sign on Magnolia Boulevard.

B. Large advertising vehicles on freeway overpasses.

Mr. Johnson advised the committee that the Burbank Municipal Code, Section 29-1011, prohibits parking advertising vehicles. The California Vehicle Code, Section 22500 (k), also prohibits parking on bridges, unless the City authorizes it. There has never been a resolution to authorize it, so it would be appropriate to put "No Parking" signs on the bridge. Mr. Napolitano questioned taking away parking; when parking becomes an issue. Another option is not allow advertising vehicles to park on the overpass. Mr. Hirsch informed the committee that advertising vehicles need to have a business license and these vehicles do not have one. Mr. Kriske reported there are plans for improvements for the Olive overpass so parking will be restricted at points. Mr. Herman suggested adding a 2-hour time limit on the bridges. Lt. Caruso noticed many of the trucks parked on the overpass have the advertisement painted on the side; therefore, not covered by the Code. Mr. Flad suggested discussing this next meeting.

C. I-5 freeway improvements at Western and Alameda Avenue.

Mr. Johnson informed the committee that Caltrans has plans to improve access to the freeway and streets. The City of Glendale has a project for terminating the ramps to Flower rather than on Western. Mr. Kriske informed the committee that Caltrans has scheduled the construction for 2008. Staff is very connected with Caltrans on the segment regarding Burbank Boulevard north to Empire interchange, but there is poor communication about the south segment. Caltrans will be adding a lane between Alameda and Olive, auxiliary lanes to help drivers merge, and a lane from Verdugo to Alameda in the southbound direction.

D. I-5/ Hollywood Way traffic signal timing.

Mr. Johnson advised the committee that staff has notified the City of Los Angeles and Caltrans several times over the last few months about checking the timing of the signals and revising it. Mr. Bric requested a contact name to voice his opinion. Mr. Johnson will give him that information. Staff will draft a letter regarding the issue.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Parking Restrictions at 321 Sunset Boulevard (Bric)
- Discussion of Traffic Calming Devices (Terranova)
- Parking problem on Buena Vista Street north of Alameda Avenue (Bric)
- Delineators on Tujunga (Johnson)
- Information on adding more times for the Burbank Bus (Kriske)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer

KJ:mb